

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PFOR BR US CU

SUBJ: FONMIN COMMENTS TO PRESS AFTER KUBISCH MEETING

1. AS WIDELY REPORTED IN PRESS TODAY, GIBSON BARBOZA SPOKE WITH REPORTERS FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH KUBISCH. (ONE PAPER SAID THE "UNDISGUISABLE NATURALNESS" WITH WHICH HE SPOKE "WAS INTERPRETED AS THE RESULT OF THE ABSOLUTE AGREEMENT OF THE US AND BRAZILIAN POSITIONS.")

2. ON MEXICO MEETING, GIBSON BARBOZA REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT IT REPRESENTED, PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FULL DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT "THE WORRY" OF SIGNING ANY DOCUMENTS. THIS POINT WAS EMPHASIZED BY ACCOUNTS APPEARING IN THREE DAILIES INCLUDING THE ESTADO DE SAO PAULO. ACCORDING TO THE ESTADO, "GIBSON EXPLAINED THAT NO ONE SHOULD EXPECT, FROM THE MEXICO CONFERENCE, EITHER AGREEMENTS OR TREATIES, 'BUT RATHER THE INITIATION OF A NEW MANNER, OR NEW METHOD, OF DEALING, LESS FORMAL.'" FACT THAT THERE TO BE ONLY THREE SPEECHES (ECHEVERRIA AND TWO OTHER LA FONMINS) WAS CITED AS INDICATIVE OF MEETING'S INFORMALITY (NO REFERENCE WAS MADE IN PRESS ACCOUNTS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH IN THE OPENING
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PUBLIC SESSION), AND KUBISCH WAS REPORTED AS HAVING

"ASSURED" GIBSON BARBOZA THAT "THE TONE OF THE MEETING WILL BE THE LEAST FORMAL POSSIBLE." CORREIO BRAZILIENSE ASSERTED "THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THE GREAT TASK OF THE MEETING--AND THIS SHOULD BE ACHIEVED-- WILL BE TO PLACE THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE US AND LATIN AMERICA IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT."

3. GIBSON BARBOZA'S REMARKS ON CUBA, WHICH, IN REFLECTION OF CONTINUING BRAZILIAN CONCERNS, GOT THE GREATEST COVERAGE, STRESSED THE IDENTITY OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' FEELING THAT THERE EXISTS NO REASON TO ALTER POLICY ON CUBA, AND THAT NO CHANGE IS INTENDED. ATTRIBUTING INFORMATION TO GIBSON BARBOZA, O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO BEGAN STORY, "THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, JACK KUBISCH, SAID YESTERDAY TO FOREIGN MINISTER GIBSON BARBOZA THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE ANY ALTERATION IN THE POLICY HELD UP TO NOW WITH REGARD TO CUBA. ACCORDING TO KUBISCH, THE CUBA TOPIC IS NOT ON KISSINGER'S AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WITH LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN MEXICO." JORNAL DE BRASILIA RAN FRONT-PAGE BANNER "BRAZIL AND UNITED STATES TOGETHER AGAINST CUBA IN MEXICO MEETING." STORY ASSERTED "THE POINT (IN THE KUBISCH MEETING) WHICH MOST INTERESTED AND PLEASED BRAZIL RELATED TO CUBA: THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT INTEND TO MODIFY THE TREATMENT IT IS CURRENTLY GIVING TO THE COMMUNIST REGIME OF FIDEL CASTRO". STORY ALSO DECLARED "GIBSON, WITH HIS STATEMENTS, PRACTICALLY DEFLATED THE SUSPENSE WHICH WAS CREATED BY THE SECRET NEGOTIATIONS WHICH KISSINGER HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT WITH FIDEL CASTRO AND WHICH IT WAS EXPECTED WOULD HAVE SOME RESULT IN THE MEETING IN MEXICO CITY."

4. GIBSON BARBOZA WAS ALSO QUOTED TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO IMPORTANT BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE US AND BRAZIL. ONE PAPER, HOWEVER, CARRIED STORY DATE-LINED MEXICO CITY (FROM VARIOUS WIRE SERVICES) ASSERTING THAT THE CUBA PROBLEM WILL ARISE IN MEXICO, THAT THE CRUX OF THE PROBLEM IS THE SALE OF ARGENTINE VEHICLES TO CUBA BY US SUBSIDIARIES OPERATING IN ARGENTINA, THAT PERON WILL STAND ON SOVEREIGNTY, AND THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WILL

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ASK "IF ARGENTINA CAN, WHY NOT US?"

5. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT KUBISCH INFORMED GIBSON BARBOZA THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER COULD NOT ATTEND THE GEISEL INAUGURATION, BUT THAT US WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT "A VERY HIGH LEVEL." SUBSEQUENT KISSINGER VISIT WAS REPORTED AS BEING POSSIBLE IN MAY.

5. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS CONCERNING DESIRABILITY OF INFORMAL, UNSTRUCTURED MFM REFLECT HIS CONTINUING FEAR OF STULTIFYING EFFECTS ON PROSPECTS FOR REAL DIALOGUE OF "DECLARATION-ORIENTED" MEETING. CURRENT FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEW IS THAT, UNLESS THE USG IS NOW PREPARED TO MAKE MEANINGFUL CONCESSIONS TO LA DEMANDS AND COMPLAINTS THAT HAVE FIGURED IN PREVIOUS DECLARATIONS, ANOTHER DECLARATION IN MEXICO CITY WILL BE AS STERILE, FRUSTRATING AND DIVISIVE AS ITS PREDECESSORS. ACCOMPANYING THIS CONCERN, WE BELIEVE, IS THE UNEASY FEELING THAT THE USG, IN ATTEMPTING TO MOLLIFY THE LATINS, MAY GO TOO FAR IN ACCEPTING THEIR SLOGANS AND CODE-WORDS, SOME OF WHICH (E.G., "IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM," "ECONOMIC AGGRESSION," "SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES") MAKE THE GOB UNCOMFORTABLE FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH'S REMARKS TO FOREIGN MINISTER THAT US POLICY ON CUBA IS UNCHANGED WAS IMPORTANT PRE-CONFERENCE REASSURANCE FOR BRAZILIANS WHO ARE PERENNIALY WORRIED THAT THERE MAY BE SOME MODIFICATION IN OUR POLICY, ESPECIALLY ONE CARRIED OUT SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT PRIOR SERIOUS CONSULTATION WITH THEM.

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